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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Nunez DATE TYPED: 01/24/03 HB 98

SHORT TITLE: NMSU Viticulturist SB _____

ANALYST: L. Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
	150.0			Recurring	GF

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 47

Relates to Appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

College of Agriculture and Home Economics, New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 98 appropriates \$150.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for a viticulturist in the Cooperative Extension Services (CES), College of Agriculture and Home Economics, to provide specialized services to New Mexico's vineyards and wine industry.

Significant Issues

The grape growing and wine industry in New Mexico is developing into a significant economic activity. According to NMSU, the industry must become involved in protecting itself through proper plant selection and best management practices, care and long-term maintenance of vine-

yards. This bill adds a viticulturist FTE to the CES who will provide technical assistance to New Mexico's vineyards and wine industry. An appropriately trained professional will carry out education programs and best practices management seminars and demonstrations to enhance their knowledge and awareness of related issues.

A request for \$100.0 for this activity was submitted to and approved by the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University and the Commission on Higher Education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How do New Mexico grape growers and wine makers currently obtain technical assistance ?
2. Does the industry have a association that could provide or purchase these services ?
3. How has technical assistance been provided to the industry thus far ?
4. Other than a state appropriation, are there any sources of funding that could be tapped to fund this program ?

LB/njw